

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7659

INFO USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 0216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, SU

SUBJ: ENERGY: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON SUDANESE ENERGY NEEDS

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH PRESIDEN NIMEIRI JANUARY 31, I REFERRED UPCOMING WASHINGTON CONFERENCE MAJOR OIL CONSUMERS AND SAID PRESIDENT NIXON'S INVITATION AND CONCURRENT LETTERS TO OPEC PRODUCERS HAD MADE CLEAR THIS SIMPLY FIRST STEP IN PROCESS WHICH WE EXPECTED WOULD INVOLVE BOTH PRODUCERS AND LESS DEVELOPED CONSUMING COUNTRIES. ALLEGATIONS THAT CONFERENCE DESIGNED BUILD CONSUMER "BLOC" AGAINST PRODUCERS THUS WIDE OF THE MARK. LAMENTING SUDANESE OIL SUPPLY PROBLEMS, NIMEIRI COMMENTED REUFULLY JAMAICA (AND ONE OTHER COUNTRY WHOSE NAME HE COULD NOT RECALL) HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED SUDAN TO ASK GOS USE ITS INFLUENCE WITH ARAB PRODUCERS END RESTRICTIONS.

2. PRESIDENT THEN COMMENTED THAT, IN SUCH A LARGE COUNTRY AS SUDAN, THERE "MUST BE SIGNIFICANT OIL AND/OR COAL DEPOSITS. SEVERAL OIL COMPANIES HAD RECENTLY BEEN GIVEN LICENSE. I COMMENTED THAT THREE AMERICAN FIRMS HAD HAD LICENSE APPLICATIONS APPROVED FOR OFF-SHORE AREAS IN RED SEA BUT I THOUGHT GOS MIGHT BE LAGGING ON DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. NIMEIR ADMITTED HE HAD ASKED THAT PROCEDURES BE SLOWED IN HOPES ATTRACTING INTEREST ONE OF MAJOR OIL COMPANIES. HE THEN REFERRED EXXON INTEREST (EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION ON

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ANY EXXON APPROACHES HERE). MOREOVER, BRAZILLIAN AMBASSADOR

HAD RECENTLY APPROACHED HIM REGARDING OIL CONCESSION IN NORTHEAST SUDAN IN HALAIB REGION. I ASKED WHETHER EGYPTIAN/ SUDANESE BOUNDARY UNCERTAINTIES IN THAT AREA HAD BEEN CLARIFIED. HE SAID YES, THAT LINE RUNNING NORTHEAST TO RED SEA FROM TWENTIETH PARALLEL WAS ACCEPTED BOUNDARY. BRAZILIAN ENVOY HAD TOLD HIM BRAZILIAN COMPANY THOUGHT THERE OIL IN THAT AREA FROM PRELIMINARY WORK ON EGYPTIAN SIDE FRONTIER. NIMEIRI SAID HE HAD GIVEN BRAZILIANS THE GO-AHEAD.

3. I TOLD NIMEIRI THAT, WHETHER OR NOT SUDAN HAD LARGE PETROLEUM OR COAL RESOURCES, IT WAS OBVIOUSLY COUNTRY WHICH POSSESSED LIMITLESS SUNSHINE. I HAD ACCORDINGLY OBTAINED INFORMALLY FROM WASHINGTON NUMBER PAMPHLETS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS ON STATUS SOLAR ENERGY RESEARCH IN US. I THEN GAVE COPIES TO THE PRESIDENT WHO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND LIVELY INTEREST. HE SAID HE WOULD REFER THEM IMMEDIATELY TO HIS RESEARCH SPECIALIST NAZIR DAFALLA (PRESIDENT GO'S HIGHER COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH), SINCE SUDAN OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED DEVELOPMENTS THIS FIELD.

4. COMMENT. WISH EXPRESS APPRECIATION AF/N'S ASSISTANCE IN ASSEMBLING SOLAR ENERGY PAPERS. PRESIDENT WAS OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED IN THIS MANIFESTATION OF INTEREST IN ONE ASPECT OF SUDAN'S ENERGY POTENTIAL.
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